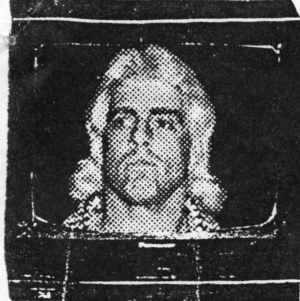
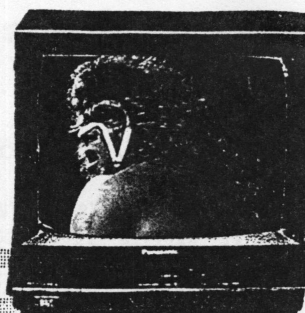




MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305



VOLUME 3, NO. 1

JULY 2-8

Another Anniversary

MATWATCH BEGINS YEAR 3 WITH HERD INTERVIEW, NEW PROMOTION STORY

HERD: "IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT HAPPENS JULY 7"

In recent months, perhaps no wrestling executive has been excoriated in publications to the extent of World Championship Wrestling, Inc., executive vice president Jim Herd. But whether you agree with the current state of the NWA, MATWATCH has been able to gain access to Herd regularly and he has never dodged direct questions to controversial issues. We had an opportunity for a phone interview with Herd June 25.

MATWATCH: What about Baltimore (for THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH: NEW REVOLUTION)? What kind of turnout do you expect?

HERD: Very good. In fact, I was just on the phone with the arena today and they say we can expect a sellout.

MATWATCH: A lot of rumors are floating about the status of certain personalities, some of which we've been told. What about Eddie Gilbert (profiled here last week)?

HERD: Well, we don't know yet. He says he still can't lift his arm. We've had our doctors look at him and I have a lot of faith in them. They can't seem to find a problem with his rotator cuff. If they determine nothing is wrong, then I'll have to have a talk with him to determine his future.

MATWATCH: We had at least three people connected with the NWA tell us that Missy Hyatt is on her way off NWA MAIN EVENT. Is that true?

HERD: That's not true. There are a gillion rumors and most of them are NOT true. Missy has a contract with us. We did send her a letter after reports of some recent problems at The Omni and told her we expect her to conduct herself in the proper fashion of an on-air personality. And if she doesn't, she'll have a problem with me but right now, she doesn't. Of course, (booker) Ole (Anderson) wants her off the show but that's not Ole's call. As for the other heel commentators, you know yourself we've kicked this around but Ole finally convinced me they couldn't keep their heat.

(Continued on Page 2)

A NOTE FROM STEVE BEVERLY



This is a brief note to thank you for making these past two years pass incredibly fast. And for giving us the opportunity to offer a perspective which may or may not mesh with yours on a weekly basis.

Since June 1988, we've tried to make MATWATCH a periodical you could digest and, hopefully, think on critical issues, particularly within the television side of this industry.

Because of our busy recent days, we have opted not to do extensive reminiscing in this second anniversary issue and, instead, provide you with two of our bread and butter staples: an exclusive interview with NWA senior vice president Jim Herd and a breaking story on a potential new promotion said to have extensive international financing (Page 2).

One question we continue to be posed regularly is: how are you able to do this week after week, still maintain a job and homelife? Not very easily and we are struggling mightily with our early days back as a TV news director. I have even told Jim Herd I could easily replace him as host of a show he has often told me he pre-sides over in NWA headquarters, CRISIS A MINUTE.

But MATWATCH continues a pleasant diversion and as long as it is and you read it, I'll continue it. Many thanks.

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HERD INTERVIEW (Cont. from Page 1)

MATWATCH: You've had questions raised from a lot of quarters, including me, about the current state of the NWA. So far, the ratings look good but do you think this will really hold up?

HERD: Ole and I are still trying to mesh this thing. Some things he does I don't like and other things I do, he doesn't like. You're not going to find a team that works with each other and loves each other all the time but we're trying to come up with a blend we think will work. And it won't be the NWA Seniors Tour. I am sure some of what Ole's doing is a stopgap thing but I can assure you, we are not abandoning our commitment to develop younger stars.

MATWATCH: But you have to know with some of the younger guys not getting as big a push, some of the criticism is going to continue.

HERD: You're exactly right. But, look, I can't worry about what everybody else thinks. We get all this mail in here telling us what we should do and believe me, we've had every suggestion in the world.

MATWATCH: Do you REALLY get a lot of mail?

HERD: Oh, yeah, and we read it all. Most of it tells us what we should do about the Four Horsemen and if we didn't do something July 7, I can't imagine what it would be like.

MATWATCH: Like handcuffing Ole to (El) Gigante?

HERD: Yes, and we're going to have the DUDES WITH ATTITUDES at ringside with the Horsemen.

MATWATCH: Like we talked about earlier, the ratings for WCW are up and the CLASH ratings were up 8% over last year. But are you happy with TV?

HERD: Not totally. There is not a TV show that can take the kind of pre-emptions or time changes we've had on Sunday afternoons or Friday nights and maintain the rating. Not even COSBY could do it if he were moved as much as we've been. We're trying to address that with TBS.

MATWATCH: Do you think if Baltimore is hot, it will be enough to bring people back to arenas?

HERD: We don't know. It all depends on what happens July 7---and if it doesn't work, we're going to have to take a long look at what we're doing.

(Next week: in our second of 2 parts, Jim Herd discusses rumors about contracts, the possibility of live weekly Saturday night TV shows and the current state of arena crowds.)

Pinfall Profile

NEW PROMOTION LURKS WITH INTERNATIONAL \$\$\$

MATWATCH has learned a new wrestling promotion is being formed in the United States with international financing.

According to sources close to the group who asked to remain anonymous, the promotion has been three months in the making and is expected to have as much as \$20 million behind the operation. MATWATCH has been told the group will open office in a Southeast location some time in August.

A key insider says a general manager has already been selected for the new group, though no specific name has been divulged. The financing is said to be from a group of international investors who are interested in entering pro wrestling as a flagship of several entertainment-related businesses.

Specific talent has not been released by organizers of the promotion but MATWATCH has been told officials are planning to talk to top non-contract wrestling performers in the United States and efforts will be made for an exchange agreement with Japanese promotions.

A news conference is planned later in the summer to reveal more specifics on the promotion.

RATINGS RAP

PRIME TIME HOT; OLE'S SHARES HOLD STEADY FOR 4TH WEEK

USA Network's PRIME TIME WRESTLING took the top spot in cable wrestling shows for the third time in four weeks, for the week ending June 25, with a hot 3.5 rating but Ole Anderson's TBS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING held to a 7.4 percent share of audience for the fourth straight week.

PTW's 3.5 was its top mark since WRESTLEMANIA, drawing 1.85 million homes. WCW dropped from three straight 2.9s to a 2.7 but held steady to the 7.4 share. Anderson's five-week average is 2.8/7.4.

POWER HOUR was up slightly to 1.9, going back over a million homes, but ALL-AMERICAN dropped back to a 2.3. NWA MAIN EVENT was cut to a half-hour after a baseball runover, drawing a respectable 2.5/6.1.

In syndication, the NWA topped the WWF, boosted by the 2.2 national rating increase from CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XI.

CABLE

Week Ending June 25	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 6/25)	3.5	6.1	1.85 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 6/23)	2.7	7.4	1.48 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 6/24)	2.5	6.1	1.37 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 6/24)	2.3	7.6	1.21 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 6/22)	1.9	3.8	1.04 million
NWA POWER HOUR/Replay (TBS 6/23)	0.7	6.5	384,000

SYNDICATION

Week Ending June 17	Rating	Stations	U.S. Coverage
THE WRESTLING NETWORK (NWA)	8.9	171	94%
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION (WWF)	8.5	250	97%

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TV TEMPO

June 25-July 1

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]:

Rockers d. Brooklyn Brawler/

Paul Diamond; Barbarian d.

Mark Thomas; Brutus Beefcake

d. Chris Allen; Demolition d. Duane Gill/Don Harris; Jim Dug-

gan d. Joe Champ; Bad News Brown d. Scott C'tonio. RESTHOLD.

[SUPERSTARS]: Rick Rude d. Jim Powers; UPDATE: More Hogan

recovery; BRO. LUV: Curt Hennig/Bobby Heenan; Bushwackers d.

Mike Sharpe/Bob Bradley; Boris Zhukov d. Brady Boone; Tugboat

d. Dale Wolfe; Dusty Rhodes d. Black Bart; Earthquake Tenta

d. Thomas but Duggan chases Tenta w. 2x4. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Zhukov d. Ronnie Garvin by DQ when

Nikoli Volkoff runs in; UPDATE: Hogan tribute; Rude d. Pow-

ers; Rhodes d. Bart; Koko B. Ware d. Wolfe; Tenta d. Mike Po-

cari; Demolition d. Champ/Diamond; BRO. LUV: Ultimate War-

rior; Warlord d. Boone; SEGMENT: Ted DiBiase w. Bossman's

"teacher"; Volkoff d. Sharpe; Brawler d. Roy; Jake Roberts d.

Akeem (countout) & DDTs Slick after. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Jack Victory d. The Shocker by DQ; FROM

LPWA: Adrian/Linda Street d. Bad Girl/Bugaloo Brown; CLAS-

SIC: Cactus Jack d. Cowboy Tony Falk; Chris Walker d. The

Sheik when Abdullah the Butcher runs in; INTL. MATCH: Willie

Seymour d. Jerry Morrow; Peggy Lee Leathers d. Heavenly

Starr; Dino Minelli d. Billy Black. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: Tommy Rich d. J.D. Wolf; Michael

Hayes d. Rico Frederico; WRAPUP: Rock & Roll/DOOM series;

SEGMENT: Jim Herd orders Ole Anderson handcuffed to El Gi-

gante at BASH & bans any Sting-Flair physical contact before

July 7; Paul Orndorff d. Dave Johnson; R & R Express d. DOOM

by DQ for tossing Ricky over top; Buddy Landell d. Brian

Johnson; Steiners d. Jim Blankenship/Ralph Hodges. RESTHOLD.

[WORLD WIDE]: (SEGMENT) Herd ruling; R&R Ex d. Zam Panzer/

Julio Barerra; DOOM d. Dennis Fowler/Daryle Woodwiss; Rich d.

Hodges; Arn Anderson/Sid Vicious/Barry Windham d. Tim Parker/

Dino Hernandez/Dave Reardon; Steiners d. Mike Hart/Barry Hor-

owitz; Jason Knight d. Ric Flair by DQ for roughness & DWA/

Steiners hold back Sting from save. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: B.J. Travis d. Scott Braddock;

Gary Young d. Kevin Von Erich by countout; USWA TITLE: Jerry

Lawler d. Bill Dundee w. trunks when John Tatum kidnaps Tes-

sa. Dundee & Tatum brawl but Lawler hits Dundee w. chair be-

fore Jeff Jarrett/Chris Adams save & wild brawl erupts; CAGE:

Kerry Von Erich d. Matt Borne (P. Pringle in ceiling swing)

when Kerry uses chain Percy drops from string but Percy tos-

ses "loaded sock" to Matt as he's lowered. Matt creams Ker-

ry, security man & Tony Falk before Kevin saves. DRAW-PLUS.

[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: (USWA TITLE) Snowman d. Lawler;

Dirty White Boys d. Rex King/Ben Jordan 2-3 falls; Jeff

Jarrett d. David Gold; Inhuman d. Radford Tyndell. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - Bad Girl d. Linda Street when Bugaloo interferes;

Bambi/Tina Moretti d. Nasty Girls; LPWA TITLE: Susan Sexton

d. Judy Martin. DRAW.

(SOUTHEASTERN) - Larry Santana d. Glamour Boy; New Sensations

(Kevin Catlin/Pat Armstrong) d. Assassin/Killer Kyle; Mauler

Mays/Luke Graham Jr. d. Midnight Riders by DQ when Graham

tells ref Mays was thrown over top; Jim Boss d. Golden Eagle;

Hurricane Walker d. Superstar; Moondog Max d. Richie Dye when

Butch Brooks interfered;
Demon Master d. Ebony Austin
by spewing fire. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - (STUDIO) King

Cobra d. Ken Wayne for over

top; Snowman d. Tim Hall;

Dirty White Boys d. Ken Ra-

per/T.D. Steel; Don Bass d.

Brian Kelly; Joey Maggs/Rex

King d. Wild Things by DQ when DWBs run in but Lawler simply

walks in ring & DWBs/WTs leave; From DALLAS: (SW TITLE) Ta-

tum d. Dundee for belt w. chain; MID-SOUTH: Lawler d. Leon

Spinks in 6th round when Snowman runs in; Dundee d. Tony An-

thony by DQ when Dirty White Girl runs in & Tessa-DWG brawl;

ANGLE: In dressing room, Anthony has to calm DWG. RESTHOLD.

(ICW) - Ray Oddyssey d. Kingpin; Vic Steamboat d. Primo;

Tropical Terrors d. Osario/O'Reilly; Eric Sapracea d. Wolfe;

Tony Atlas d. Biala; Wild Bunch d. Undertakers by DQ when

Tony Rumble runs in. BOMB.

(IWA) - Larry Cameron d. Montana Mauler; Preston Steele d.

Bobby Salsa; JYD d. Taz Apollo; Jules Strongbow d. Boy Gone

Bad; Kerry Von Erich d. Man Mountain Mike Moore; Samoans d.

Pit Bulls by DQ when Larry Sharpe trips Afa. BOMB.

(CHICAGO CHAMPIONSHIP) - Max Dencity vs. Lumberjack no

contest; Scott Reynolds d. Dean Allen White. DOUBLE BOMB.

(WWEU/SUPERSTARS) - Samuel F. Kent makes debut as "Uncle

Sammy." NO RATING OFFERED.

(PWF) - New Sensations draw vs. Dennis Knight/Lebanese As-

sassin; Lou Perez d. Joe Padiero; LOSER LEAVE FLA: Steve

Keirn d. Rick Diamond (for "injured" Robert Fuller) but when

Fuller ran in, Keirn piledrives Fuller twice for win; The

Spirit unmask as Catlin and d. Jim Backlund by DQ; Termi-

nator d. Bodyguard by DQ when Al Green runs in. BOMB-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - [MIDGETS]: Mascarita Sagrada/Aguilita Soli-

taria d. Piratita Morgan/Espectrito 2-3 falls; 6-MAN: Mis-

terioso/Justiciero/Mascara Sagrada d. Fuerza Guerrera/Jaque

Mate/Gladiator 2-3; Los Brazos d. Solomon Grundy/Lizmark/Rayo

de Jalisco Jr. 2-3; Perro Aguayo/Villano III/Ken Timbs d.

Ringo Mendoza/Sangre Chicana/Cien Caras 2-3. DRAW-PLUS.

(AWA/ESPN) - Trooper d. Tokyo Bullet; Mike George d. The Men-

ace; CLIP: Lumberjacks d. Texas Hangmen by DQ; Nikita Koloff

d. Spike Jones; [REPLAYS] Larry Zbyszko d. Brad Rheingans w.

feet on ropes; Destruction Crew d. D.J. Peterson/Ric McCord;

LT. HWT. TOURNEY: Jonnie Stewart d. Tony DeNucci. RESTHOLD.

(ALL JAPAN) [6/10] - Stan Hansen d. Toshiaki Kawada; (PWF

TITLE): Steve Williams/Terry Gordy d. Davey Boy Smith/Bam

Bam Bigelow; Jumbo Tsuruta/Great Kabuki d. Kenta Kobashi/

Mitsuhara Misawa. POWERSLAM.

[6/17] - Kawada/Misawa d. Kabuki/Samson Fuyuki; Hansen d.

Williams; TRIPLE CROWN: Gordy d. Tsuruta. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CNWA) - Jim Jordan d. The Eagle; The Ballplayer d. Steve

Gillespie; Biff Wellington d. Bill Jodoin; Mercenary d. Jor-

dan; The Bowlers double DQ vs. Ron Ritchie/Akam Singh;

Great Gama double countout vs. Jerry Morrow. BOMB.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: (From WWW) R&R Ex draw vs. DOOM;

(NWA TV TITLE) Arn Anderson d. Tom Zenk; WNN: Solie calls on

SCALE: PINFALL!
Must See PILEDRIIVE
- Excellent. POWER-
SLAM - Good. DRAW -
Average. RESTHOLD -
Fair. BOMB - Poor
PLUS - Midscale
rating.

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Herd for "equitable ruling" on Horsemen; (From CLASH) S. Boys d. Freebirds; Mark Callous d. Joe Defuria; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Cornette w. Landell. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[WCW]: S. Boys d. Dutch Mantel/Joe Cazana; Brian Pillman d. Mike Thor; SEGMENT: Herd ruling; Hayes d. Knight; Callous d. Reardon; Orndorff d. J.D. Wolf; DOOM d. Larry Santo/Parker; Landell d. Jerry Price; Rich d. Barrera; Arn/Vicious/Windham d. Italian Stallion/Tim Horner/Defuria; R&R Ex d. Joe Cruz/. BOMB-PLUS...just not much here.

(PORTLAND) - Steve Doll d. Moondog Moretti; PACIFIC NW TAG TITLE: Juicers d. U.S. Male 2-3 to win belts (Curtis Thompson loses 3rd fall and has to leave Portland) but heels attack after & as Taylor-Made Medina swings purse, Juice ducks & she creams Ricky Santana then Ginger/Medina brawl; AMATEUR MATCH: Grappler d. C.W. Bergstrom; ANGLE: Billy Jack Haynes shoves Don Coss to floor when Coss reminds Haynes of his bragging how he can beat Scott Norton; FIESTA GARDEN: Scotty the Body/Gappler sign for PNW title match. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on Rosattis: "You've heard EVENING IN PARIS. They're wearing Afternoon in Poughkeepsie." 2. Alfred Hayes, PTW, on Boris Zhukov: "We must respect their flags and their anthems...but not their singing." 3. Jim Cornette, WCW: "I'm surprised Jim Herd doesn't put Ric Flair in a duck outfit and give those 14,000 fans a rifle and declare it duck season." 4. Buddy Landell, WWW: "If Ric Flair came out to watch Sting, they'd have up all kinds of Winn-Dixie supermarket specials." 5. Cornette, WCW: "Rest of the story, Jim? What are they gonna do next, bring out Paul Harvey?" 6. Ed Whalen, CNWA, on Masked Ballplayer: "Bucky Dent, is that you?" 7. Vince McMahon/Jesse Ventura, WWF: (J) "What kind of a patriot are you, McMahon? I bet you were a weekend warrior." (V) "I do have something in common with Dan Quayle." 8. Whalen, CNWA, on Eagle: "Instead of soaring like an eagle, he's flying like a turkey." 9. Heenan/Gorilla Monsoon on Earthquake: (GM) "He hovers around 500." (BH) "That's a heavy hover." 10. Paul E. Dangerously, WCW: "When Mean Mark was 13 years old, he pushed his wheelchair-bound grandma down a flight of stairs."

11. Heenan, WWF, on Rosattis: "The rodeo's back in town." 12. Heenan, WWF, on Wrestlefest tape box: "The Rosattis thought it was a Reuben and ate my tape." 13. Jim Herd, WWW, to Ole Anderson: "Your livelihood depends on how well you discipline yourself and The 4 Horsemen." 14. Coach Bratten, WWF, on Bossman: "He was a guard. He guarded the water buckets & watched the cheerleaders." 15. Landell, WWW: "My man, Ric...ha ha ha...but he ain't no Buddy Landell." 16. Ole, WWW, to Herd: "I can't believe you're shaking my hand. I don't want to shake yours." 17. Jerry Lawler, WMC: "If Snowman's fans will look at this objectively...if they know what that word means." 18. Snowman, WMC: "Lawler, when I finish with you Monday night, you'll be at the front of the welfare line." 19. Snowman, WMC: "Your face is all red and your nose is all snotty. Too bad you couldn't be somebody." 20. Dirty White Girl, WMC, on Tessa: "I hate that witch."

21. Lawler, WMC: "Don Bass said he'd lost a lot of weight. I said, 'Turn around & you'll find it.'" 22. Landell, WWW, to Tony Schiavone: "You're just like Jim Herd. You're an opportunist." 23. Tommy Rich, WCW: "Like you just

say no to drugs. It's time to say no to the Horsemen." 24. Jim Ross/Cornette, WCW: (JC) "Why don't they put some of the Horsemen's friends around the ring?" (JR) "They couldn't find any."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Paul E. Dangerously, WWW, to Lex Luger: "...you lousy excuse for a father." 2. Ric Flair, WWW: "Ric Flair...the greatest wrestler of all-time." 3. Curt Hennig, WWF: "I am not only the greatest wrestler of all time, I'm the greatest wrestler of modern time." 4. Herd, NWA PRO, to Ole: "You will never be a commentator on any of our shows again."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Heenan, PTW: "Why don't they have a tribute to a nice guy like Jim Bakker?" 2. Ole Anderson, WWW: "Are you trying to take my livelihood away from me, Herd?" 3. McMahon/Ventura, WWF: (V) "Is Black Bart any relation to Bart on THE SIMPSONS?" (J) "Is he an underachiever?" 4. Lawler, WMC, to Snowman's friend: "When you due back in the window at Woolworth's with that suit?" 5. Jim Ross, WCW, on El Gigante: "How'd you like to feed him chicken dinner? You'd have to clean up the whole henhouse."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. LIAR OF THE YEAR (Rosatti Sisters on Heenan). 2. NEW YORK NITWITS (Rick Rude on Binghamton fans). 3. THE IMPERIALIST MONARCH OF WRESTLING (Promo announcer on Flair). 4. TWO REJECTS FROM WOODSTOCK (Teddy Long on R&R Ex). 5. MR. NACHO FACE (Michael Hayes on Rico Frederico). 6. MAJOR LEAGUE HOT DOG (Lance Russell on Hayes). 7. BLACK BANDIT (Snowman on himself).

BEST PICTURES - 1. WMC/WPTY, Jerry Lawler in FIREWORKS CITY ad. 2. PTW, Rosattis presenting Monsoon stuffed weasel. 3. NWA PRO, Herd & Ole handshake. 4. WWW, DWA/Steiners holding back Sting. 5. WMC, Lawler/Snowman reax to Lawler-Spinks match. 6. USWA, Tatum using chain on Dundee. 7. NWA PRO, Teddy Long/Lance yell-off. 8. USWA, Percy in cage.

ODD COUPLE AWARD - Herd & Ole, NWA PRO/WWW.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Heenan, WWF: "...the nude awakening." 2. Herd, NWA PRO: "...Superdudes." 3. Russell, NWA PRO: "Steve Armstrong comes from Marietta TN." (should be GA).

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Bill Dundee, WMC: "...picture worth a thousand words." 2. Craig Johnson, USWA: "...blood is thicker than water."

BOO AWARD - Whalen, CNWA, for abrupt behavior during interview with Desiree Petersen.

TUBE TALK

Memphis TV has been running a 4th of July ad for FIREWORKS CITY with Lawler riding a firecracker Superman-style...Herd & Ole's handshake was a scream...PWF in Tampa Thursday: Steve Keirn/Lou Perez d. Dennis Knight/Lebanese Assassin by DQ...On another note, I'm looking to trade for a VHS copy of an episode of the old HIGHWAY PATROL or I LED 3 LIVES series...New USWA rules declare over the top a "technical loss," not a DQ...Lawler-Snowman rematch had no ref Monday night. Lawler was expected to regain title...Lawler is gradually making a return to face on TV commentary, which should be complete at end of Snowman series...Also Monday night were Joey Maggs/Rex King in USWA tag title rematch vs. Dirty White Boys, a SW title rematch with Tatum vs. Dundee and a lights out with Dundee vs. Anthony.

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NEW FACES?: Titan expects both John Nord and Kerry Von Erich to be at their next tapings. Nord probably will but lots of doubt is hanging over Kerry.

NEW BOOKER?: The key reason Kerry may not be there is reports are Jerry Jarrett has offered him a chance to book his own USWA/Dallas angles to keep him on board and most people expect him to go for it.

LAWLER IN 6: Jerry Lawler scored a TKO victory over Leon Spinks in the sixth round last Monday night in Memphis. About all that's left for Lawler is to commence a turn back to babyface and get the belt back from Snowman.

MAGGS MOVES: Also on that Memphis show, Joey Maggs, who won the USWA tag belts with Rex King two days earlier, won a 12-man battle royal but lost in a USWA title bid against Snowman the same night.

FLICKING HULK: The first of Hulk Hogan's two-movie deal will commence shooting in the mid-fall. Stories are the untitled flick will keep Hogan out of regular WWF action for as long as two months.

TORONTO TALES: NWA drew approximately 3,500 in Toronto last Wednesday. That's about half a house but it was bigger than the last Toronto house the WWF drew. But Niagara Falls the night before only packed in 400-500.

THE SALVATION: From two MATWATCHers at the Toronto show: one of the few salvations of the show was the 18-minute Flair-Luger match which was incredibly hot. But MATWATCHer Charles Hodgkisson reports a number of the other matches were a bit "off," with some guys appearing travel-weary.

FORBES FOLLY: Writer Vicki Contavespi's article on the NWA in the July 9 issue of FORBES Magazine left Ms. Contavespi a bit chagrined. An editor apparently whacked the piece to bits and left a very elementary picture of the Turner wrestling scene.

EDDIE BACK HOME: Eddie Gilbert back home in Lexington TN over the weekend for the birth of his sister's third child. He missed the first two but wanted to be here for this.

MONTHLY MANDO: Mando Guerrero has begun monthly cards in Montclair CA. The talent features Mando, Tim Talltree, The Viking, Johnny Legend and the Bruise Brothers.

COMING SLAMMERS: Verne Langdon of SLAMMERS WRESTLING GYM is passing the word Chris Cruise is the latest addition hoping to attend SLAMMERS' anniversary and Hall of Fame ceremony in September.

LPWA DELAYS: Cruise's debut as LPWA host has been postponed. Scheduled to tape July 20, that session has been put off until August 31 in Chicago. Tor Berg's people have had trouble lining up remote trucks with so many committed from around the country for the Goodwill Games.

MORE CRUISE: Not that this is becoming the Chris Cruise itinerary guide but tremendous interest has been expressed in the former WORLD WIDE host by telephoning MATWATCHers. He

MATWATCHING

has been approached about emceeing a new weekly TV show in the Dallas area. More on that in the future.

LUCHA L.A.: One of the top LUCHA LIBRE shows ever in the U.S. is scheduled in Los Angeles Saturday night (but not bucking the BASH, since it's on the West Coast at 8 p.m.).

RETURNING STARS: Terrence Garvin is returning for another stint with USWA in Dallas. He's been working some of the many indie shows in the area, including with the WWA group that's bringing in Steve Williams and Terry Gordy. Garvin did the KTVT show last week and will probably be on the syndicated show in about 4 weeks.

POLL LINES: The phone line will be open Saturday night at (901) 664-9246 for your comments on the BASH pay-per-view. Please keep your remarks brief. Rate the show in the following scale: EXCELLENT, GOOD, AVERAGE, FAIR or POOR. Try to keep your comments to less than 30 seconds so others may call.

GAINESVILLE GOODIES: Lots of squashes at the WCW Gainesville GA tapings last Monday for this weekend's airings but some of the Flair-Sting standoffs scored enormous heat. In a finale dark match where the Rock & Roll Express & Tommy Rich won a DQ over Flair/Vicious/Arn, we're told Sid worked as hard as he ever has and in the Sting save at the end, he and Flair did a 2-minute spot in which Sting reportedly looked as close to 100% as he has since the injury.

OTHER GAINESVILLE: One or two other items...MATWATCHer Scott Hudson says Sting and Flair did a bit where Ole walked up and it appeared to be a gangup situation before El Gigante sneaked behind Ric & Ole and just stood. Flair's facial reax was classic and even funnier was Gordon Solie doing one of his trademark, "Now, gentlemen...." separation attempts.

LAST NOTES: Brian Pillman and Arn Anderson had a POWER HOUR match that some rated as good as any WCW singles bout since WRESTLE WAR '89. But Brian lost both that one and a dark to Mark Callous, both with tights-holding, which in my view confirms where Brian's role is headed. Also, the apparent start of a Tommy Rich-Stan Hansen feud and Tim Horner appeared under a mask as The Star Blazer (a few in the crowd were yelling, "Where's LAZERTRON?").

WAILIN' WHALEN: Ed Whalen's antics on the CNWA are said to be reverting to the irritating ways in the latter days of Stampede. A number of viewers say Whalen was far too abrupt in a recent interview with Desiree Petersen.

FINAL REMINDER: For those of you in Baltimore, ARENA REPORT's Ron Lemieux's informal get-together is at 1 p.m. Saturday in the bar of the Omni Hotel. If you've never been to one, let me encourage you to do so. These are always great fellowship. I only wish I could be with you but share my hellos with everyone.

MATWATCH HOTLINE

The number is (901) 664-9246. If we are not available, please leave any news info you have. Have a good week!

**THIS WEEK'S
HEADLINES**

**BLASSIE RECOVERING FROM
TWO HEART ATTACKS**

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.----Former wrestling star and manager Freddie Blassie is recovering in a White Plains hospital from two coronaries.

Blassie reportedly suffered the heart attacks last Monday. He was rushed to the hospital from his home.

Reports as of MATWATCH deadline are that Blassie was still in a coronary care unit in critical condition (critical is a standard listing for CCU patients) but was expected to be moved to a private room over the weekend.

Blassie was saluted last Thursday in a get-well wish by Regis Philbin on his live REGIS AND KATHIE LEE series.

**EDDIE GILBERT EXPECTED
TO ASK OUT OF CONTRACT**

ATLANTA----At deadline, no confirmation had come from the TBS office but veteran wrestler Eddie Gilbert was expected to ask for a release from his WCW contract this week.

In an interview (see Page 1) with WCW executive vice president Jim Herd, MATWATCH was told TBS doctors had not been able to find a specific injury continuing to keep Gilbert out of the ring.

Sources close to Gilbert told MATWATCH last Thursday, the 30-year-old Tennessee native had decided to ask for a "no hard feelings" release from WCW. Gilbert's further plans were not detailed.

**TURNER WRESTLING FATES
PORTRAYED IN FORBES**

NEW YORK---The fates of World Championship Wrestling, Inc., were portrayed as "floundering" in a July 9 edition of FORBES magazine.

Writer Vicki Contavespi said WCW has "lost about \$5 million since Turner bought it." Contavespi also termed attendance at some events "off as much as 70%."

The story detailed the increase in TBS wrestling TV ratings as concurrent with the arena declines. Contavespi's report also termed revenues from WCW accounting "for less than 3% of Turner Communications' total revenues."

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